1 – 82 (previously canceled)

83.   (Currently amended) A method of permitting an author of an electronic mail (email) message file to check text content of such file using an electronic text editor program operating on a computing system, the method comprising:

      (a)   permitting the author to select at least one language filter for checking words within the email message file, which language filter includes a first set of words identified as offensive and/or potentially inappropriate for use in connection with an intended recipient of the email message file; and

      (b)   receiving input words entered by the author as text for the email message file;

      (c)   inspecting said input words within the email message file to determine if they fall within said language filter;

      (d)   alerting the author when one or more of said input words within the email message file fall within said language filter;

      (e)   permitting the author to change words within the email message file after step (d) and before the email message file is transmitted to said intended recipient; and

        wherein the author of the email message file can cause the email message file to be transmitted by the computing system to said intended recipient even if words in such email message file still fall within said language filter.

84. (Original) The method of claim 83, wherein said language filter includes obscene, vulgar and/or racist words found in a first pre-programmed dictionary created without input from the author.

85. (Original) The method of claim 83, wherein step (d) includes providing a highlighting of any words which are determined to fall within said language filter along with an accompanying visual warning.

86. (Previously amended) The method of claim 83 further including a step: identifying which ones of a plurality of language filters were triggered to the author during step (d).

87. (Original) The method of claim 83, further including a step (f): checking one or more additional electronic email message files according to steps (a) through (d).

88. (Currently amended) The method of claim 83, further including a step (f): checking spelling of the email message <u>file</u>.

89. (Previously Amended) The method of claim 84, wherein said language filter includes a second dictionary with foreign language words which second dictionary is part of a second electronic file which is separate from a first electronic file used for said first set of words and can be considered separately from said first electronic file.

90. (Original) The method of claim 83, wherein an author is alerted during step (d) only if a sensitivity threshold specified by the author is exceeded.

91. (Original) The method of claim 83, wherein said sensitivity threshold is specified as a numerical value ranging from 1 to 10.

92. (Original) The method of claim 83, wherein steps (a) through (e) are implemented as a software routine in machine readable form executable by a personal computer.

93.   (Currently amended) A method of permitting an author of an electronic mail (email) message file to check text content using an electronic text editor program operating on a computing system, the method comprising:

(a)   permitting the author to select at least one language filter for checking words within the email message file, which language filter can be configured to control dissemination of content to an intended recipient of the email message file; and

(b)   setting a sensitivity threshold provided by the author to also be used in connection with checking appropriateness of content included in the email message file;

(c)   retrieving input words entered by the author as text for the email message file;

(d)   inspecting said input words within the email message file to determine if they fall within said language filter;

(e)   providing a warning to the author if an input word within the email message file falls within said language filter and said sensitivity threshold is exceeded;

(f)   permitting the author to change words within the email message file after a warning is made and before the email message file is transmitted to said intended recipient; and

wherein the author of the email message file can cause the email message file to be transmitted by the computing system to said intended recipient even if words in such email message file still fall within said language filter.

94.   (Currently amended) A method of checking text content of an email message <u>file</u> using an electronic text editor program operating on a computing system, the method comprising:

(a)   permitting the author to select at least one language filter for checking words <u>with</u>in the email message <u>file,</u> which language filter includes a set of words identified as offensive and/or potentially inappropriate for use in connection with an intended recipient of the email message <u>file</u>; and

(b)   receiving an input word entered by the author as text for the email message <u>file</u>;

(c)   inspecting said input word substantially immediate in time after it is entered <u>within the email message file</u> to determine if it falls within said language filter;

(d)   providing a warning to the author when said input word is determined to fall within said language filter ;

(e)   permitting the author to change said input word within the email message <u>file</u> after a warning is made and before the email message <u>file</u> is transmitted to said intended recipient; and

wherein the author of the email message <u>file</u> can cause the email message <u>file</u> to be transmitted by the computing system to said intended recipient even if said input word falls within said language filter.

95.   (Currently amended) A method of checking text content of an email message <u>file</u> using an electronic text editor program operating on a computing system, the method comprising:

(a)   permitting the author to select at least one language filter for checking words <u>with</u>in the email message <u>file</u>, which language filter includes a set of words identified as offensive and/or potentially inappropriate for use in connection with an intended recipient of the email message <u>file</u>; and

(b)   receiving input words entered by the author as text for the email message <u>file</u>;

(c)   inspecting said input words <u>within the email message file</u> during idle periods when the author is not interacting with said electronic text editor program to determine if such input words fall within said language filter;

(d)   providing a warning to the author when one or more of said input words <u>within the email message file</u> are determined to fall within said language filter;

(e)   permitting the author to change words within the email message <u>file</u> after a warning is made and before the email message <u>file</u> is transmitted to said intended recipient; and

wherein the author of the email message <u>file</u> can cause the email message <u>file</u> to be transmitted by the computing system to said intended recipient even if words in such email message <u>file</u> still fall within said language filter.

96.   (Currently amended) A computer program for checking text content of an email message file using an electronic text editor program implemented by a computer usable medium operating on a computing system, comprising:

at least one language filter selectable by an author for checking words within the email message file , which language filter is an electronic dictionary which includes a set of words identified as offensive and/or potentially inappropriate for use in connection with an intended recipient of the email message file; and

a content checking routine which is adapted for:

i) receiving input words entered by the author as text for the email message file;

ii) inspecting said input words within the email message file to determine if they fall within said language filter;

iii) generating an alert to the author when one or more of said input words within the email message file fall within said language filter;

iv) permitting the author to change words within the email message file after an alert is generated and before the email message file is transmitted to said intended recipient; and

wherein the author of the email message file can cause the email message file to be transmitted by the computing system to said intended recipient even if words in such email message file still fall within said language filter.

97. (Previously amended) The computer program of claim 96, wherein said language filter includes at least a first dictionary located in a first electronic file and a second separate dictionary located in a separate second electronic file, and said alert includes an indication of which of said of said first dictionary or said second dictionary was triggered by said alert.

98.   (Currently amended) A computer program for permitting an author of an electronic mail (email) message <u>file</u> to check text content implemented by a computer usable medium executing on a computing system, comprising:

at least one language filter selectable by an author for checking words <u>with</u>in the email message <u>file</u>, which language filter can be configured to control dissemination of content to an intended recipient of the email message; and

a content checking routine which is adapted for:

i) setting a sensitivity threshold provided by the author to also be used in connection with checking appropriateness of content included in the email message <u>file</u>;

ii) retrieving input words entered by the author as text for the email message <u>file</u>;

iii) inspecting said input words <u>within the email message file</u> to determine if they fall within said language filter;

iv)   providing a warning to the author if an input word <u>within the email message file</u> falls within said language filter and said sensitivity threshold is exceeded;

v)   permitting the author to change words within the email message <u>file</u> after a warning is made and before the email message <u>file</u> is transmitted to said intended recipient; and

wherein the author of the email message <u>file</u> can cause the email message <u>file</u> to be transmitted by the computing system to said intended recipient even if words in such email message <u>file</u> still fall within said language filter.

99. (Original) The computer program of claim 97, wherein said sensitivity threshold is used during a check of individual words in said language filter.

100.   (Currently amended) A computer program implemented by a computer usable medium operating on a computing system for checking text content of an email message <u>file</u> comprising:

  at least one language filter selectable by an author for checking words <u>with</u>in the email message <u>file</u>, which language filter includes a set of words identified as offensive and/or potentially inappropriate for use in connection with an intended recipient of the email message <u>file</u>; and

  a content checking routine adapted for:

   i) receiving an input word entered by the author as text for the email message <u>file</u>;

   ii) inspecting said input word substantially immediate in time after it is entered <u>within the email message file</u> to determine if it falls within said language filter;

   iii) providing a warning to the author when said input word <u>within the email message file</u> is determined to fall within said language filter ;

   iv) permitting the author to change said input word within the email message <u>file</u> after a warning is made and before the email message <u>file</u> is transmitted to said intended recipient; and

  wherein the author of the email message <u>file</u> can cause the email message <u>file</u> to be transmitted by the computing system to said intended recipient even if words in such email message <u>file</u> still fall within said language filter.

101. (Original) The computer program of claim 100, wherein said input word is checked before the author has entered another input word.

102.   (Currently amended) A computer program implemented by a computer usable medium operating on a computing system for checking text content of an email message <u>file</u> comprising:

at least one language filter selectable by an author for checking words <u>with</u>in the email message <u>file</u>, which language filter includes a set of words identified as offensive and/or potentially inappropriate for use in connection with an intended recipient of the email message <u>file</u>; and

a content checking routine adapted for:

i)   receiving input words entered by the author as text for the email message <u>file</u>;

ii)   inspecting said input words <u>within the email message file</u> during idle periods when the author is not interacting with said electronic text editor program to determine if such input words fall within said language filter;

iii)   providing a warning to the author when one or more of said input words <u>within the email message file</u> are determined to fall within said language filter;

iv)   permitting the author to change words within the email message <u>file</u> after a warning is made and before the email message <u>file</u> is transmitted to said intended recipient; and

wherein the author of the email message <u>file</u> can cause the email message <u>file</u> to be transmitted by the computing system to said intended recipient even if words in such email message <u>file</u> still fall within said language filter.

103. (Original) The computer program of claim 102, wherein said input words are also checked for spelling during said idle periods.